

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 CU-02 SCA-01
VO-03 /086 W
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P 131329Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3217
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LENINGRAD 0701

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, UR
SUBJ: LENINGRAD DISSIDENT SITUATION ON EVE OF BELGRADE

REF: A. LENINGRAD 136, B. LENINGRAD 571

1. LENINGRAD AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 8 AND 10 GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION TO LEADING DISSIDENTS ILYA LEVIN, RUDOLF FEDOROVICH AND NATALIA KAZARINOV, AND DAVID DAR. IN ADDITION, EMILIA SOTNIKOVA HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO OVIR AND, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES, EITHER ALREADY HAS RECEIVED, OR IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE EARLY THIS WEEK, PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE U.S.S.R.

2. ALL CONCERNED HAVE BEEN MAJOR IRRITANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN RECENT PAST. THEY ALL MAINTAIN REGULAR AND OUTSPOKEN CONTACT WITH WESTERNERS. FURTHERMORE, ALL ARE IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH MOSCOW DISSIDENT CIRCLES. IN ADDITION, LEVIN IS THE LENINGRAD REPRESENTATIVE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, AND THE KAZARINOV'S HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN ORGANIZING NON-OFFICIAL ART EXHIBITIONS
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IN LENINGRAD AND MAINTAIN ESPECIALLY CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE RABIN-AMARANTOV-KIBLITSKIY GROUP IN MOSCOW. KAZARINOVA ALSO HAS PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE IN MONITORING VIOLATIONS OF CSCE ON CULTURAL SIDE.

3. IT IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY THAT THREE OF THE FOUR, SOTNIKOVA, DAR AND LEVIN, ALSO ARE INVOLVED WITH

THE PERIODICAL, "JEWS IN THE U.S.S.R", THE CONTINUING EXISTENCE OF WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN DOUBT. SOTNIKOVA IS THE LENINGRAD EDITOR OF THE PERIODICAL; DAR HAS BEEN A CONTRIBUTOR; AND LEVIN IS ON THE EDITORIAL BOARD. DAR RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO MAJOR WORLD WRITERS (REF B) ALERTING THEM TO POSSIBILITY THAT PERIODICAL MIGHT BE SHUT DOWN, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN USSR WHICH DO NOT HAVE OFFICIAL SANCTION.

4. GRANTING OF EXIT PERMISSION TO KAZARINOV'S CAUSED GREATEST SURPRISE HERE DUE HIS POSITION AS HIGHLY RESPECTED PHYSICIST IN SOLID STATE RESEARCH, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD EVEN BEEN CONSIDERED FOR LENIN PRIZE. OFFICIAL LARGESSE IN HIS CASE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, SO OFTEN GIVEN AS REASON FOR REFUSING EXIT PERMISSION, CAN BE OF LITTLE REAL CONCERN WHEN SOVIETS WANT TO GET RID OF "TROUBLEMAKERS". KAZARINOV'S WERE GIVEN EXIT PERMISSION TO GO TO ISRAEL, BUT THEY HAVE CONTACTS AT CALTECH AND MAY WELL END UP THERE. LEVIN REPORTEDLY HAS GRADUATE STUDENT OFFER AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AND WILL PROBABLY HEAD THERE.

5. IN ADDITION, ABOVE EVENTS, NON-OFFICIAL ARTIST AND BOOK ILLUSTRATOR, ANATOLIY BELKIN, WHOSE PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD AN EXHIBITION HAD BEEN PENDING FOR A YEAR AND A HALF, WAS SUDDENLY NOTIFIED BY CULTURAL DIRECTORATE THAT EXHIBITION COULD BE OPENED JUNE 6, AND HE WAS GIVEN THREE DAYS TO GET HIS EXHIBITION TOGETHER.

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HE DID BETTER THAN THAT, ILLEGALLY OPENING THE EXHIBITION A DAY AHEAD OF TIME, SO THAT HIS FRIENDS COULD SEE HIS WORKS BEFORE CULTURAL DIRECTORATE AUTHORITIES COULD CENSOR THEM. AFTER SCHEDULED WALK THROUGH, CULTURAL DIRECTORATE PERMITTED EXHIBITION TO PROCEED AT SOMEWHAT HARD-TO-FIND DZERZHINSKY HOUSE OF CULTURE (LOCATED JUST OFF OLD NEVSKIY PROSPEKT NEAR MOSCOW STATION), BUT ORDERED BELKIN TO REMOVE THREE LITHOGRAPHS AND ONE PAINTING. LITHOGRAPHS, WHICH VIVIDLY DEPICTED COMMUNAL APARTMENT LIFE, APPARENTLY WERE A LITTLE TOO REALISTIC AND PAINTING HAD RELIGIOUS THEME. BELKIN DUTIFULLY REMOVED PAINTINGS FROM THE WALL BUT LEFT THEM SITTING ON THE FLOOR FOR ALL TO SEE-- RATHER THAN REMOVING THEM FROM THE HALL-- AN OVERSIGHT WHICH ESCAPED THE ATTENTION OF THE CULTURAL DIRECTORATE. THIS PROMPTED ONE OF OUR RUSSIAN ACQUAINTANCES TO REMARK THAT THE "BEAUTY OF IT IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION, AFTER ALL, IS NOT LIKE NAZI GERMANY WHERE EVERYTHING WAS DONE EFFICIENTLY."

6. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO LEVIN, SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST YULIYA VAZNESENSKAYA FOR JUMPING HER EXILE IN ORDER TO ATTEND SLOGAN PAINTERS TRIAL THIS SPRING. HER TRIAL IS SLATED TO BEGIN JUNE 13 AT VORKUTA, AND PROBABLY WILL RESULT IN AN EXTENSION OF HER EXILE OR IMPOSITION OF A STRICTER REGIME.

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3218

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AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LENINGRAD 0701

7. WITH THE EXEPTION OF RIGA, WHERE WE HAVE HEARD THAT SIX OR SEVEN REFUSENIKS WERE RECENTLY GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE, SITUATION AMONG REFUSENIKS ON EVE OF BELGRADE CONFERENCE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED APPRECIABLY. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SINCE MAY 1, SIX LENINGRAD REFUSENIKS WERE GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION, BUT SEVEN NEW REFUSALS WERE ISSUED. (FULL REPORT ON REFUSENIK SITUATION FOLLOWS SEPTTEL).

8. COMMENT: LENINGRAD AUTHORITIES PROBABLY HOPE THAT BY GRANTING EXIT PERMISSION TO ACTIVIST DISSIDENTS AT THIS TIME THEY WILL WEAKEN WEST'S CASE AT BELGRADE WHERE ONE OR ANOTHER OF THESE CASES COULD COME UP FOR DISCUSSION-- AT LEAST IN THE CORRIDORS. AT THE SAME TIME, MOVES CERTAINLY WILL FURTHER REDUCE NUMBER OF INFORMED DISSIDENTS WITH REGULAR CONTACTS WITH WEST, CUT FURTHER GROUND FROM UNDER PUBLICATION "JEWS IN THE U.S.S.R", AND FURTHER REDUCE CONTACTS BETWEEN DISSIDNETS IN SOVIET UNION'S TWO LARGEST CITIES. BELKIN EXHIBITION

AUTHORIZATION IS PROBABLY ADDITIONAL SMALL EFFORT TO
BUTTRESS IMAGE OF SOVIET ON ON FREEDOM OF THE ARTS WHILE
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SIMULTANEOUSLY CONTINUING THEIR DIVIDE-AND-CONQUER
TACTICS AMONG LENINGRAD'S DISSIDENT ARTISTS. DESPITE
DAMAGE DONE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT HERE IN RECENT MONTHS,
DISSIDENTS BY AND LARGE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CARTER'S
HUMAN RIGHTS STAND. AS ONE DISSIDENT TOLD US, SOVIET
AUTHORITIES WELL UNDERSTAND THAT CARTER'S MOVES ARE
BASED ON HIS PERSONAL CONVICTIONS, THAT CARTER WILL
BE PRESIDENT FOR NEXT FOUR YEARS, AND THAT CERTAIN DEGREE
OF SOVIET ACCOMMODATION THEREFORE IS NECESSARY. FACT
THAT SOME OF THESE ACTIVIST DISSIDENTS ARE BEING
PERMITTED EMIGRATE, RATHER THAN BEING TRIED, IS
DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO CARTER'S POSITION. RE BELGRADE
TALKS, MOOD WAS SUMMED UP BY ONE DISSIDENT AS ONE OF
ANXIETY, HOPING FOR BEST BUT EXPECTING THE WORST. RUECKERT

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